

Interagency Wildfire Management Team  
Meeting Notes  
June 4, 2003

Manny L,Esperance (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) indicated that the fire danger is very high at LANL. Fuel moistures are as low as 5 percent. The forecast for the near future includes windy weather.

Dean Clark (Bandelier National Monument) presented a graph of annual tree growth at three permanent plots in the ponderosa pine zone. The growth of pines during dry years (e.g. 1996, 2000 and 2002) is noticeably less than during normal and wet years. This relationship is especially true for pines growing at lower elevations. Dean also announced that snags in the fuel break along Highway 4 are being cut.

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) has noticed that dead trees are falling with increasing frequency during high wind conditions. The hazard trees that were created by the burning of the Cerro Grande Fire are now augmented by dead trees killed by bark beetle during the drought of last year.

Susan DiMauro (Davey Resource Group) reported that the Los Alamos County Defensible Space Project scheduling appointments with homeowners in the Los Alamos downtown area. This project has participation by approximately 70 percent of the affected homeowners.

Fran Talley (Public Affairs Office, LANL) distributed fliers for the Community Safety Days events that will be conducted in downtown Los Alamos on the morning of June 26.

John Stetson (Department of Energy, Los Alamos Area Office) distributed a memorandum from DOE discussing the implementation of DOE wildland fire management policy. DOE Order 450.1 requires DOE sites to consider protection of site resources from wildland and operational fires as part of their Integrated Safety Management System.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has begun fieldwork for assessing the fire hazards, fire hazard reduction treatments, and recovery from the Cerro Grande Fire in the Los Alamos region. At the current time, eight plots in the piñon-juniper woodlands have been sampled both before and after the application of thinning prescriptions.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, June 18, at TA-21, Building 210 in the RRES-ECO Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice ([balice@lanl.gov](mailto:balice@lanl.gov), 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.